

Assignment 5 - Getting Started with Ruby on Rails

Due Date: Tuesday February 13, 2008 at 11:55PM

Update: A new version of the Windows install (rte-win-03.zip) has been released - it is smaller and much quicker to install.

Overview

This is a very simple assignment - Simply get your Ruby on Rails environment up and running and demonstrate that you can run the sample application. Then we will make a small change to the application, make sure it works and hand in two screenshots from your application.

Probably the biggest challenge for the assignment will be for those who have never used the Windows command line interface or the Macintosh Terminal program. Unless you are whiz at command line interfaces in your system, please download and watch the podcasts.

If you encounter technical issues with the installation processes, send a note to the list immediately so we can resolve it as quickly as possible. Also, if you are unsure of installing or using your computer make sure to come to Lab for assistance. If all goes well this should only take a few minutes other than downloading the files.

You can use any environment you like for the course. You can use your own laptop (recommended) or use a lab computer with a removable USB stick or USB drive. If you are using a lab computer you should use Macintosh - Ruby does not work well on PC computers in labs because of port blocking (described in the chapter below).

The instructions for installing Rails depend on your environment. For each environment there is a document and a ZIP file to download as part of the instructions.

Instructions for Installing Rails on Windows:

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~csev/teachrails/downloads/rte-win.pdf>

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~csev/teachrails/downloads/rte-win-03.zip>

Instructions for Installing Rails on Macintosh:

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~csev/teachrails/downloads/rte-mac.pdf>

<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~csev/teachrails/downloads/rte-mac-00.zip>

Instructions for Macintoshes in the Shapiro DIAD Lab:

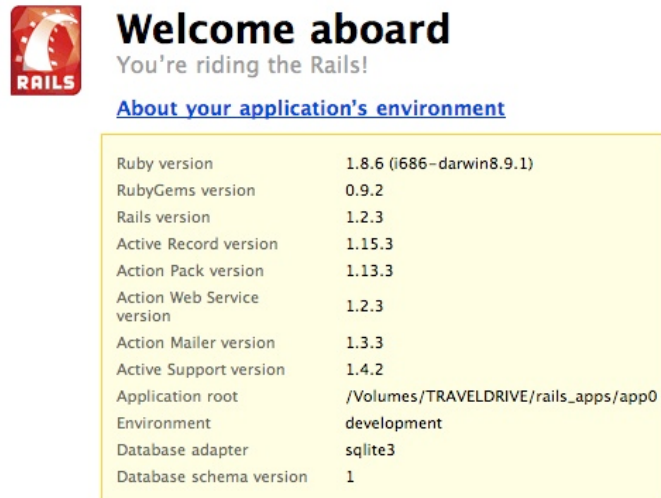
<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~csev/teachrails/downloads/rte-diad.pdf>

You should only use the DIAD instructions if you do not have a laptop or home computer you will use for the assignments.

If you have Macintosh OS/X Leopard (10.5) - make sure to read the instructions closely - you can skip part of the installation process as OS/X 10.5 already has Ruby and Rails installed.

You should work your way through the examples in those handouts including creating the Rails application. In the examples the application is named "zork" or "app0" - you can name the application anything you like.

You can verify that you have accomplished the installation properly when you see the rails screen below with your adapter properly set to sqlite3.



Modifying the Rails Application

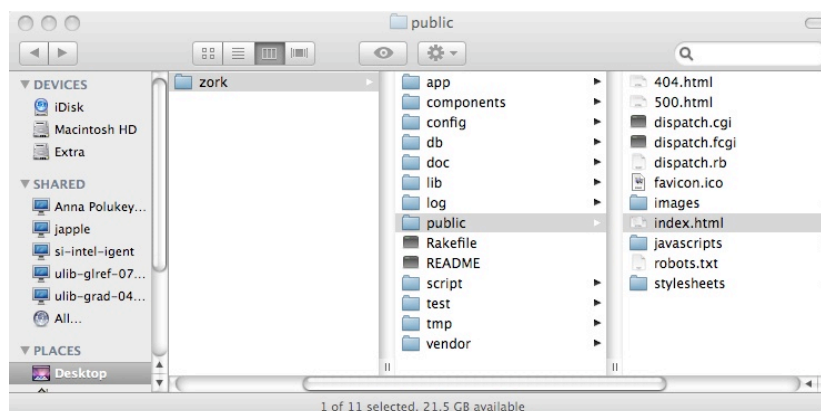
To complete this section - do **not** stop your Rails web server - if you have stopped the Rails server - you must restart it using the

```
ruby script/server
```

command in your Rails application directory.

The next step is to make a simple modification the file that contains the HTML of the "Welcome aboard" page in your Rails application.

If you followed the podcast instructions and named your application "zork", you would go to the **rails_apps** folder and then to the **zork** folder and then the **public** folder and then find the file **index.html**



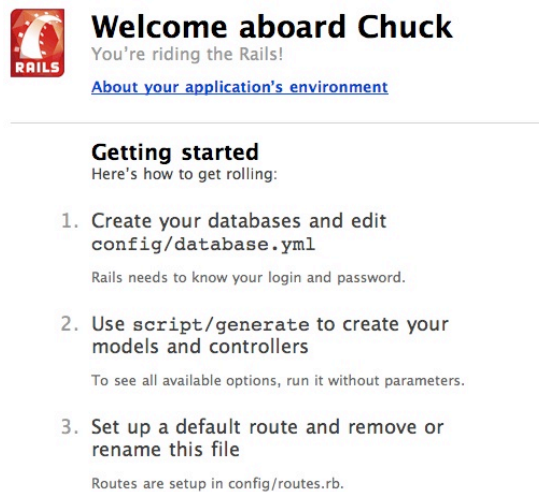
Open this file in a text editor and scroll down through the file and find the HTML that generates the "Welcome Aboard" text. It looks like this:

```
<div id="header">
  <h1>Welcome aboard</h1>
  <h2>You're riding the Rails!</h2>
</div>
```

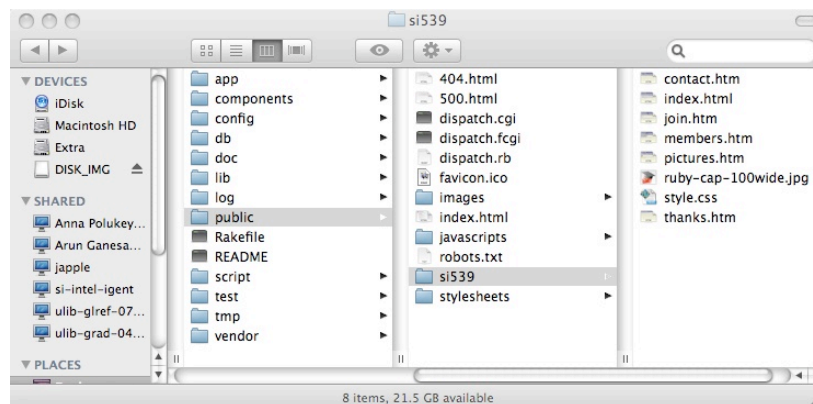
Change this to include your first name in the title:

```
<div id="header">
  <h1>Welcome aboard Chuck</h1>
  <h2>You're riding the Rails!</h2>
</div>
```

Then save the file and press Refresh in your browser - It should look like this:



The next step is to create a new folder in your Rails application under the **public** folder called **si539**

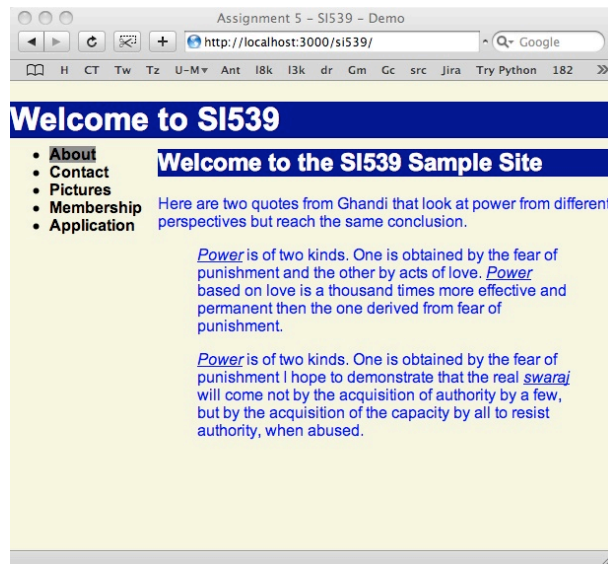


Copy all the files (HTML, CSS, IMAGES) files from your previous assignment into this directory. Rename your index file to be index.html if you originally called it index.htm.

Navigate in your browser to

http://localhost:3000/si539/

It should look as follows:



Hand In

Hand in a screen shot of the Welcome Aboard screen as changed with your name on the screen. Also hand in a screenshot of your index page running in the Rails environment as shown above.